



Marines participate in Noncombatant Evacuation Operation in Tinian by playing the rescued and rescuers. See story and photos pages 10-11.

March 16, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

INSIDE

NEWS

Marine sergeant saves boy from choking on candy

On his way home from work, assistant motor transportation chief reacts to the cries of a desperate parent in time to preform the Heimlich Manuever on her choking 3-year-old son, saving the boys life.

see page 3 for more

NEWS

Recovered alcoholic speaks out to help others

Marine staff noncommissioned officer relives his days as an alcoholic in hopes that others may learn from his mistakes or seek help before it is to late. "I was blitzed out of my mind and I don't even remember it," he said.

see page 7 for more

COMMUNITY

Sailors volunteer time to clean up local beaches

3d Dental Battalion volunteers took a day to help clean up Aaha and Sunset Beaches recently. The project was also aimed at continued clean-ups of beaches and giving back to the local community.

see page 14 for more

SPORTS

Kubasaki Dragons fall victim to the Red Devils

The Kubasaki High School Dragons engaged in a heated battle against the Kinnick High School Red Devils in finals of the DoDDS Far East High School Girls Class AA basketball tournament.

see page 16 for more

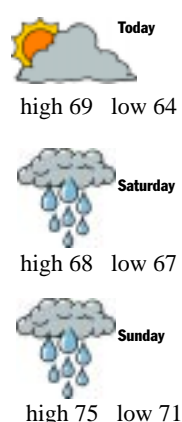
LEISURE

Ryukyu Mura replicates early Okinawan village

Ryukyu Mura takes visitors back to a time when Okinawa was ruled by kingdoms and where animals roamed free. The Ryukyu Mura offers visitors a glimpse into Okinawa's ancient culture.

see page 17 for more

FORECAST



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GYSGT MATT HEVEZI

Supporting the mission

On their way to Tinian, KC-130 Pilots with VMGR-152, Capts Chris Rhodes, right, and Al Cassano, supported MAG-36's recent Operation Readiness Evaluation. The VMGR Marines arranged transport missions to Tinian for infantry Marines conducting a simulated noncombatant evacuation operation March 1-2. The VMGR Marines flew eight missions to Tinian. Sgt Jeremy J. Nash, Flight Engineer, VMGR-152, is at center. For more stories and photos on the Tinian missions see page 12.

Life insurance coverage to increase

Eligible service members to receive \$50K increase

BY GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Eligible troops will automatically be insured for a maximum \$250,000 in coverage through the military's life insurance program starting April 1.

The new coverage marks a \$50,000 increase over the previous maximum provided by Service members' Group Life Insurance. The premium for maximum coverage will be \$20 monthly, said Tom Tower, assistant director of DoD's military compensation office.

Participants can then decrease or maintain their levels of SGLI coverage, Tower said, adding that service members who want less than \$250,000 of coverage after April 1 must apply for it through unit finance or personnel

officials.

"If you don't want the increased insurance, you have a 30-day grace period to decline it, otherwise, you'll have to pay at least two months of increased coverage," he said.

The government and commercial insurers underwrite SGLI, which has been in existence since 1965, said Tower. It has been more than eight years since the last increase in maximum coverage, he added.

He said 98 percent of all service members are covered by SGLI and 80 percent have maximum coverage. This shouldn't be surprising, he noted, as military members, like police and firefighters, often perform hazardous duty.

At 80 cents for each \$10,000 of coverage, SGLI rates are competitive, and coverage "is guaranteed, whether you're an aviator, sailor or tanker," Tower said. Service members can also convert their SGLI policies to the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program after they leave the service, he said.

Tower noted congressional interest in extending SGLI coverage, in lesser amounts, to service members' family members.

"It looks like there is support for passing that this year for spouses and children," Tower said. "It certainly would make SGLI one-stop-shopping for family life insurance. Can't say it's a certainty, but it looks like a good possibility."



The new premium for the maximum coverage of \$250,000 will cost service members \$20 per month.

Report traffic violations at 645-7441/7442

3d MarDiv posts new sergeant major, bids farewell to old

CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — Hundreds of friends, family members, Sailors and Marines said good-bye to 3d Marine Division's 63rd Sergeant Major, SgtMaj George J. Amos here March 2.

The ceremony served two purposes: putting a new sergeant major at the helm of the Division and bidding farewell to a 28-year Marine Corps veteran.

SgtMaj Amos officially leaves active duty this summer. Tears accompanied smiles as the Kentucky native said good-bye during the post and relief and retirement ceremony.

"The Corps has been my life," he said. "And I couldn't have asked for a better one."

He also expressed his confidence in the abilities of his replacement, SgtMaj Robin W. Dixon.

SgtMaj Dixon joins the Division team after two years as Sergeant Major of 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division.

"Today is Sergeant Major Amos' day," he said. "I'll keep this short, but I need to be sure and thank some very special people."

SgtMaj Dixon thanked his wife and daughter for standing by him during his career. He brought smiles

to the faces of many by teasing his daughter about spending one more year in Okinawa.

During the ceremony, SgtMaj Dixon said the day was meant to celebrate the career of SgtMaj Amos. SgtMaj Dixon did emphasize his intentions of continuing to march in the tradition of the outgoing sergeant major.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band entertained the crowd and provided music for the ceremonial drill movements performed by the Division Marines and Sailors.

SgtMaj Amos passed the noncommissioned officers sword to MajGen Wallace C. Gregson, Commanding General, 3d MarDiv, during the ceremony. MajGen Gregson then passed the same sword to SgtMaj Dixon. The passing of the sword signifies the relief and appointment of the sergeant major. The long-standing Marine Corps tradition brought tears to the eyes of many in the crowd, including the wives of the sergeants major.

Christine Amos, wife of SgtMaj Amos, told friends after the ceremony that it was hard to say good-bye.

MajGen Gregson spoke highly of both the outgoing and incoming sergeants major, describing each as friends and Marines he is proud to have the opportunity to serve with.



CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

SgtMaj George J. Amos prepares to turn over the NCO sword to MajGen Wallace C. Gregson during the post and relief and retirement ceremony March 2. The passing of the NCO sword from the outgoing to incoming Sergeant Major is a tradition throughout the Marine Corps.

Marine saves choking child

LCPL KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — A Marine was recognized here March 7 for saving a child's life.

Sgt Manuel Tinajero Jr., Assistant Motor Transportation Chief, Motor Transportation Branch, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps



Sgt Tinajero

Base, was on his way home Oct. 16 when he noticed a car parked on the side of the road. A woman was beside the car signaling and yelling for help. Sgt Tinajero pulled over and discovered her 3-year-old son, Alexander C. Ebalo Jr., was choking.

"I knew something drastic was wrong when I saw the way she was reacting on the side of the road,"

Sgt Tinajero said. "I noticed her son in the car seat and she told me he was choking on a piece of candy."

The boy's face and lips had started turning purple due to the candy stuck in his throat. Without hesitating, Sgt Tinajero pulled the boy out of the car seat and attempted to dislodge the candy by performing the Heimlich Maneuver.

After a few attempts, the boy coughed up a piece of hard candy and began breathing again.

As Sgt Tinajero attempted to remove the candy, military police and an ambulance showed up on the scene to provide additional assistance.

"Being CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) certified gave me an advantage because I knew exactly what to do in the situation," Sgt Tinajero said.

The boy's father, GySgt Vincent E. Ebalo, Intelligence Chief, 4th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, and mother, Edelyn B. Ebalo, were both grateful to Sgt Tinajero.

"We are very appreciative for Sgt Tinajero being in the right place at the right time," GySgt Ebalo said. "Thanks to him our son can celebrate his fourth birthday next month."

"As a parent myself, I understood the relief his parents felt when their son was going to be fine," Sgt Tinajero said.

Marines face retirement choices

Service members planning to make a career of military now have two retirement systems to consider

LCPL KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Thanks to changes made by Congress Oct. 1, 1999, service members who joined after Aug. 1, 1986 and complete 15 years of active duty service now have two retirement options.

The options are the new Career Status Bonus/REDUX retirement system and the High-3 retirement system, according to an administrative message released Feb. 1.

"Having two retirement plans instead of one greatly affects a Marine's choice to stay in the Corps," said Cpl Aaron A. Dalan, Personnel Clerk, Marine Corps Personnel Administrative Center, Marine Corps Base. "Before the new plan, Marines only had one choice about retirement."

The new CSB/REDUX system offers a \$30,000 bonus to Marines at their 15-year mark of service. The bonus is paid in full when a Marine chooses the CSB/REDUX retirement system.

Properly invested, the money could turn out to be very beneficial to a Marine, according to Cpl Dalan.

Investing is an excellent way to get ahead in preparing for retirement.

The CSB/REDUX plan pays 40 percent of basic pay at 20 years retirement. The High-3 system pays 50 percent at 20 years. Under each plan, the retirement pay is the average basic pay for the last three years of his or her service.

With High-3, if a Marine continues a career beyond 20 years, a 2.5 percent increase is added to the 50 percent each year up to 30 years of ser-

vice for a maximum of 75 percent. CSB/REDUX retirement pay increases at 3.5 percent annually for those who go beyond 20 years.

To receive the CSB/REDUX benefit, a Marine must be serving on active duty, entered after Aug. 1, 1986, complete 15 years of active duty and be able to continue until 20 years of active duty is complete.

Marines may not be eligible for the CSB/REDUX election if they don't meet all these requirements at the completion of 15 years of service.

Marines choosing CSB/REDUX are obligated to serve 20 years under the 1986 Military Retirement Reform Act or be forced to pay back a certain share of the bonus.

This payback is waived if the Marine dies or is discharged due to injury or sickness.

Commanders are required to notify Marines of the requirement to choose a retirement option when they reach 14.5 years of service, according to the message.

Marines must make a choice before reaching their 15-year mark. Options cannot be selected earlier than 14.5 years of service.

During the six-month period, Marines have the option to change their choice of retirement plan.

"When a Marine is notified he should come in immediately and start the paperwork process," Cpl Dalan said. "We can give them a brief and all the information they need to make the best decision for themselves."

Marines notified after the 15-year mark, still have six months from that date to make a decision.

Marines who enlisted on or after Sept. 8, 1980 but before Aug. 1, 1986 will remain under the High-3 retirement system.

All Marines who meet the criteria are required to choose one of the retirement systems.

Information on retirement options are available online at www.mol.usmc.mil or by contacting their administrative support office.



Futenma units move to Foster



SSgt Ryan G. Bragg, Computer Information Systems Specialist, MWSSG-17, 1st MAW, wires up a new computer system in a renovated building on Camp Foster Mar. 2.

Units from MWSS-172 receive an upgrade in buildings, equipment

LCPL KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Two support units from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma started relocating to their new home here Feb. 26.

The Motor Transport Division and Heavy Equipment Platoon from Marine Wing Support Squadron-172 are moving to a new building with modern facilities.

"We will be working in a shop with better facilities and equipment," said MSgt Paul E. Collingsworth, Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Motor Transport Division, MWSS-172, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. "This move will bring both units together which helps their mission by having better working conditions."

The Motor Transport Division, which includes 97 Marines, performs preventive and corrective maintenance on 235 vehicles, which includes M 970 refuelers, Logistical Vehicle Systems, 539 Series Five Tons and Highly Mobile Multipurpose Vehicles.

The Heavy Equipment Platoon, with only 39



MSgt Collingsworth

Marines, supports all heavy equipment requirements for the 1st MAW on Camp Foster and MCAS Futenma and performs maintenance on its own heavy equipment. This includes repairing forklifts, bulldozers, cranes, scrapers and runway sweepers.

The new building has been in planning for over five years and will be divided between the two sections. The building will save time and increase safety because less travel will be involved.

Marines assigned to these units live on Camp Foster and a small detachment will travel to work on MCAS Futenma every day in support of the 1st MAW.

"We will still have to transport needed assistants back and forth between Camp Foster and MCAS Futenma" said GySgt Chris J. McMasters, Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Heavy Equipment Platoon, MWSSG-17, 1st MAW. "But being in the same building will increase our ability to support each other."

The facility will be smaller than what the units currently work in on Futenma, but this will not hinder the mission of the Marines, according to MSgt Collingsworth. The new facility will provide, a professional looking environment for the Marines to work in.

Better equipment such as new automobile lifts, tools and pressure lines will be available for the Marines to use. Another added feature will be an automated Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant System, which will speed up maintenance on vehicles.

Legal Services Marine selected for top billet

Marine Corps awards billet as Legal Services Chief of Marine Corps to 3d FSSG MGySgt

CPL CHAD SWAIM
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER—A Marine in the Legal Services Support Section here has been awarded the top enlisted billet in his Military Occupational Specialty.

MGySgt John L. Sini, Legal Services Chief, ISSS, 3d Force Service Support Group, is on his way to be the Legal Services Chief of the Marine Corps.

"He's one of the best legal chiefs I've had the opportunity to work with," said Sgt Adonte L. Brown, Administrative Law Chief, ISSS. "He's very knowledgeable, and always willing to help junior and senior Marines."

MGySgt Sini was born in Buffalo, N.Y., but claims Texas as his home.

"I grew up in San Antonio and Austin," MGySgt Sini said. "I'm a Texan."

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1973 because he had no idea what he wanted to do at the time, according to MGySgt Sini.

While on terminal leave from his first enlistment, MGySgt Sini decided to commit to a career in the Marine Corps.

"I came back, reenlisted and I'm still here," MGySgt Sini said.

MGySgt Sini has done everything that could be done in his MOS except for a B-billet. He deployed to the Persian Gulf region during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, where he served as the Legal Chief for the Officer of the Staff Judge Advocate, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

"Other than Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, I've never really had to deploy while stationed with the Marines, but when I was stationed at the Naval Legal Services Office, Norfolk, Va., I had the opportunity to do some extensive travel," MGySgt Sini said. "I have been to Italy, Bermuda and the Azores Islands. I've also served aboard several aircraft carriers."

At first, MGySgt Sini did not relish the idea of working for another branch of the military.

"I went to Norfolk kicking and screaming," MGySgt Sini said. "I did not want to go to a Navy command and did not know what I did to deserve being assigned there, but it turned out to become my most rewarding learning experience in the legal services MOS."

To further his knowledge in his MOS, MGySgt Sini attended many schools from other branches of service.

"I've been to all the legal type training that I could do through the

Marine Corps," MGySgt Sini said. "I've been to the Air Force Law Offices Managers Course, Army Senior Noncommissioned Officers and Staff NCO courses. I'm currently enrolled in the Marine Corps Initiative, a paralegal degree program with Coast Line Community College in California, and the Army's Nonresident Paralegal Program. I've done everything I could to make myself technically proficient."

MGySgt Sini also believes in taking care of his Marines.

"I've seen the way good leaders have led and I've seen the way bad leaders have just blown a good Marine out of the water," MGySgt Sini said. "One of the reasons I've stayed around as long as I have is because I think I have something positive to give to the Marine Corps."

None of this however, could have been accomplished without the support of his family, according to MGySgt Sini.

"My family has been a great help. My wife is a retired gunnery sergeant and she knows what it's like," MGySgt Sini said.

MGySgt Sini's wife was in the same MOS and left the Marine Corps because the two of them would no longer be able to be stationed together, according to MGySgt Sini. "She's been supportive our whole marriage."

"We have five children. The youngest is still with us and the other four are grown and on their own," MGySgt Sini said. "I couldn't have asked for a better family. I've been blessed with



MGySgt John L. Sini, Legal Services Chief, Legal Services Support Section, 3d FSSG, has been selected to be the next Legal Chief of the Marine Corps.

good children.

"As much as I love my Marine Corps career, my family comes first; always has and always will," MGySgt Sini said.

MGySgt Sini has served the Marine Corps for more than 27 years. When he gets to Headquarters Marine Corps, the most he will be able to serve is two years.

The current Legal Services Chief of the Marine Corps has done an outstanding job, according to MGySgt Sini. "I just hope to carry through on what he started and maybe start one or two initiatives of my own."

Recovered alcoholic shares experiences to help others

SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Editors note: SSgt Don J. Lackie is a reformed alcoholic who is sharing his experiences to show how alcoholism can take control of your life physically, financially and emotionally. By reading about his experiences, he hopes to help others overcome alcoholism.

CAMP HANSEN – “I was blitzed out of my mind and I don’t even remember it,” said SSgt Don J. Lackie who recently celebrated his 11th sober year. “It was a hit and run on a parked car. It was the last straw ... my brother finally got tired of coming to get me out of jail. When you get fired from your job and your boss is your brother, it’s a good sign you have a drinking problem. But I wasn’t ready to face it yet.”

It happened to SSgt Lackie when he was 19. He had been drinking for five years already and would not seek help for another nine.

He started when he was 14. As his drinking increased, his grades began to reflect his activities.

“I was caught drinking in high school twice, but it was by different faculty members and both incidents were treated as first offenses,” SSgt Lackie said. “All my teachers liked me and no one knew how heavily I was into drinking.

“I was a good chameleon,” SSgt Lackie said. “That’s another sign of being an alcoholic ... being able to hide what you’re doing.”

Following high school, SSgt Lackie left Traverse City, Mich., and went to work for his brother in the oil fields in Montana and North Dakota for about a year.

“My drinking was directly responsible for me leaving there,” SSgt Lackie said. “I got into trouble a lot and had frequent involvement with the local authorities. It was never anything really big, but it ended up getting me fired.”

After losing his job, SSgt Lackie and a friend traveled to Florida where they lived out of a van for nearly three months before deciding to join the Marine Corps.

“My buddy and I were walking on the beach and we saw a bum digging in the trash for food,” SSgt Lackie said. “We were making fun of him when it dawned on me that if I didn’t do something, that was going to be me in another 10 years. I realized that being a bum sucked.

“The night before leaving for boot camp, I was once again involved with the police,” he said. “We had a party for my going away and one thing led to another and we stole a bike, rode it around for a while and threw it in the river. The cops got involved and I ended up fishing the bike out of the water.

“When I finally got to boot camp, I spent the first three days or so sick,” said SSgt Lackie, who joined the Marine Corps in 1981. “I wasn’t able to keep anything I ate down and I had problems sleeping. At the time I thought it was nerves, but looking back I realized that I was going through alcohol withdrawals.”

Following an alcohol-free 13 weeks at recruit training, SSgt Lackie didn’t waste any time finding a drink on liberty.

“By the time my plane arrived back in Traverse City, I was lit,” SSgt Lackie said. “That just seemed natural. Later that night I was in trouble again as a friend and I were screwing around ended up crashing a jeep through some ice.”

During the next few years, SSgt Lackie continued to be a good chameleon, hiding his drinking in the Corps.

Though he hid the extent of his drinking, trouble while on liberty kept him from being promoted.

“I was an infantryman and ended up on barracks duty in Norfolk, Va.,” SSgt Lackie said. “I

spent 38 months as a lance corporal due entirely to my behavior on liberty. On the job, I was a lance corporal, but they made me a corporal of the guard. They knew I would do what I had to do and I would do the job, but they wouldn’t recommend me to be a corporal because of poor leadership qualities.

“Every time I was counseled it was because of alcohol-related incidents on liberty,” SSgt Lackie said. “I just kept doing all kinds of stupid stuff. I got a DUI while in Norfolk. They sent a staff non-commissioned officer to court with me and I attended the alcohol awareness training they had back then, but nothing really changed.”

His drinking also progressed to where he was blacking out and waking up not knowing where he was or how he got there.

“About 50 percent of the time I was drinking I would black out ... maybe not for the whole night, but for bits and pieces,” he said. “When I was in Okinawa, I’d be drinking in Kin, blackout, and next thing I’d know I was in Kitamae.”

In September of 1984, SSgt Lackie left the Marine Corps, but quickly found himself rejoining in January 1985 because of alcohol-induced financial difficulties.

“One of the reasons I came back in was it just wasn’t any fun blowing all your money on booze when you had to pay rent,” said SSgt Lackie, who would drink anywhere from 9 to 18 beers in a night or 12 or more ounces of whiskey. “I found I could not party when I had financial responsibilities.”

After rejoining the Marine Corps, SSgt Lackie was stationed at Twentynine Palms, Calif., and Albany, Ga., and eventually ended up being stationed back here on Okinawa. It was while stationed here, that he met his wife, who played a major role in seeking help for his alcoholism.

“My wife never asked me to stop drinking, she just asked me not to get drunk ... and I couldn’t do that ... well I could, but it wasn’t any fun,” he said. “I’d stop off to get a beer on the way home from work, and sometimes I’d never make it home. I really wanted to be that guy who goes into a bar after his buddy and then goes home. I just do it.”

During his final year of drinking, his wife had to deal with not knowing where he was or what he was doing for a great deal of that time, according to SSgt Lackie. It finally took her threatening to leave for him to realize he needed help.

“I finally had to go get help when I was drunk,” he said. “My wife and I had a big fight and she was on her way out the door. I was hearing the same excuses coming out of my mouth ... ‘tomorrow I’ll go get some help.’ Then it dawned on me that if I don’t get help right now, I’m not going to do it. So at three in the morning I was standing at the front door of my company gunny’s

house telling him ‘I think I have a drinking problem and I need some help’ with a beer in my hand.”

February 19, 1990 was the end of a 14-year self-destructive cycle and the beginning of his recovery.

With the support of his command, SSgt Lackie received the help he needed and was able to move on.

“The treatment worked for me because I had a lot of support from my command,” SSgt Lackie said. “I had the support of my peers, staff NCOs and officers. They still made me do my job, but didn’t give me a hassle when I had to attend my classes and meetings.”

After more than five years of being sober, SSgt Lackie volunteered to share his experience and became a substance abuse counselor for the Marine Corps.

“Getting the chance to be involved in someone’s life when they make this kind of positive change is a privilege,” SSgt Lackie said. “When the program worked, it was great.

“I remember helping one gunnery sergeant realize he was capable of changing and that he didn’t do the things he had done because he was evil, but because he was drunk,” SSgt Lackie said. “Helping him realize that was a real privilege. Seeing him walk out the door ready to make the changes, knowing what he had to do and believing in himself that he could, was real special.”

Now that he has returned to his primary military occupational specialty, SSgt Lackie still passes on his experiences to the other Marines in his office or anyone who asks.

“There is nothing wrong with drinking, but don’t be getting drunk because that’s when you put yourself at risk,” he said.

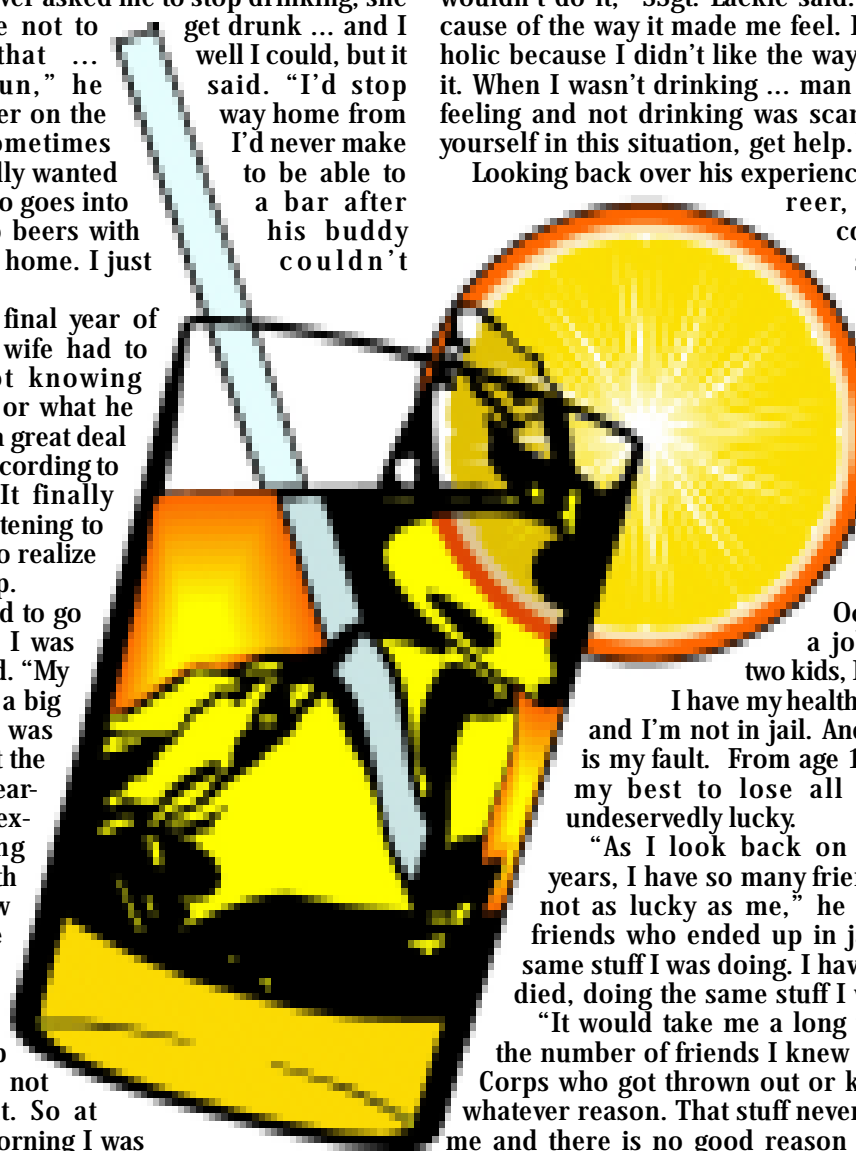
“Anybody who drinks, does so because of the way it makes them feel. If they didn’t, they wouldn’t do it,” SSgt. Lackie said. “I drank because of the way it made me feel. I was an alcoholic because I didn’t like the way I felt without it. When I wasn’t drinking ... man I wanted that feeling and not drinking was scary. If you find yourself in this situation, get help.”

Looking back over his experiences and his career, SSgt Lackie considers himself lucky to be where is today.

“Here I am at 39 years old,” said SSgt Lackie, who will be retiring with 20 years in October. “I have a job, a wife and two kids, I have a future, I have my health, I’m not dead and I’m not in jail. And none of that is my fault. From age 14 to 28, I did my best to lose all of this. I’m undeservedly lucky.

“As I look back on my drinking years, I have so many friends who were not as lucky as me,” he said. “I have friends who ended up in jail, doing the same stuff I was doing. I have friends who died, doing the same stuff I was doing.

“It would take me a long time to count the number of friends I knew in the Marine Corps who got thrown out or kicked out for whatever reason. That stuff never happened to me and there is no good reason why it didn’t. I’m so undeservedly lucky.”



NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for March 4-10.

• Underage drinking

Six Lance Corporals with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, were found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$500 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

Two Privates First Class with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$272 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

Two Privates First Class with 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d FSSG, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$272 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 7 days.

A Lance Corporal with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 per month for one month and restriction for 45 days.

A Private First Class with 3d Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$521 per month for two months and restriction for 45 days.

Two Lance Corporals with Headquarters Battalion, 3d MarDiv, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$283 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Consuming alcohol while on restriction

Two Privates with 9th ESB, 3d FSSG, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: forfeiture of \$521 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

A Private First Class with 3/12, 3d MarDiv, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$521 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Drunk and disorderly

A Corporal with H&HS Sqdn, 1st MAW, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$667 per month for two months and restriction for 45 days.

• Failure to obey a lawful order by having hard liquor in the barracks

A Sergeant with H&HS Sqdn, 1st MAW, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: reduction to E-4, forfeiture of \$826 per month for two months and restriction for 30 days.

• Failure to obey a lawful order by drinking alcohol during an exercise

A Private with III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: forfeiture of \$521 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 30 days.

• Drunk on duty

A Corporal with 2d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment, 3d MarDiv, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$600 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.



LCPL KEITH R. MEIKLE

On patrol

LCpl David A. Dowling, Patrolman, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base, sits adjacent to a stop sign on Camp Foster March 13 to watch for motorists ignoring the sign. Mar. 13. LCpl Dowling and his fellow patrolmen spend 50 hours or more a week patrolling Marine Corps camps to ensure the roads stay safe.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Vendor Fair

There will be a Vendor Fair at the Camp Foster Fieldhouse from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21. Approximately 40 Okinawan and U.S. vendors with over 60 booths showcasing their products will be present.

In addition to the vendors, there will be several government agencies and contracting offices from the Marine Corps and Air Force to answer questions.

Lunch will be provided by the Globe and Anchor Club at cost.

In conjunction with the fair, there will also be training for government credit card holders on the following:

- **8:30-10:30 a.m.** - Purchase Card initial training
- **1-2 p.m.** - Purchase Card refresher training
- **10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.** - PR builder training
- **3-4 p.m.** - Procurement integrity and ethics training

For more information, call Maj Ron Dalton at 645-2143.

Awards banquet

The 6th Annual Community Heroes Award Banquet will be held at the Rocker NCO Club on Kadena Air Base April 14 starting at 6 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be BGen Willie J. Williams, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

The banquet is designed to recognize outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the community in the areas of: education, health care, civil/human rights, community service, performing arts, athletics/fitness and journalistic achievement.

Individuals recognized at the ceremony will be selected from a list of nominations entered.

All nominations must be submitted no later than March 26.

Tickets for the event are \$22 for ages 13-adult, \$10 for ages 8-12 and \$5 for ages 7 and under.

For nomination procedures or other informa-

tion, call David Young at 935-2517, Lucille Gardner at 646-2522 or Arlene Dixon at 646-5751.

Scholarship competition

The Marine Officers' Spouses' Club has scholarships available to dependent children of Marines pursuing undergraduate studies.

Applications are available at the Marine Gift Shop located on Camp Foster (behind the base theater) and at both Kubasaki and Kadena High School.

All applications must be received by April 20.

The competition is open to those meeting the following requirements:

- The dependent child of any rank active duty Marine who is on an accompanied tour to Okinawa.
- The dependent child of any retired Marine living on Okinawa.
- The dependent child of a regular MOSC member as of May 20, 2000.

Applicants must have current Status of Forces Agreement status at time of award.

For more information, call Anne Woods at 646-2556 or Cheryl Paulsen at 633-1369.

Enrollment underway

Enrollment is now underway for the University of Oklahoma summer courses. Continuous enrollment runs through July.

Some of the Human Relations degree courses offered are "Leadership in Organization" and "Arts, Media & Culture in HR," and some of our Economics courses are "Managerial Economics II" and "Major Issues in American Economic Development."

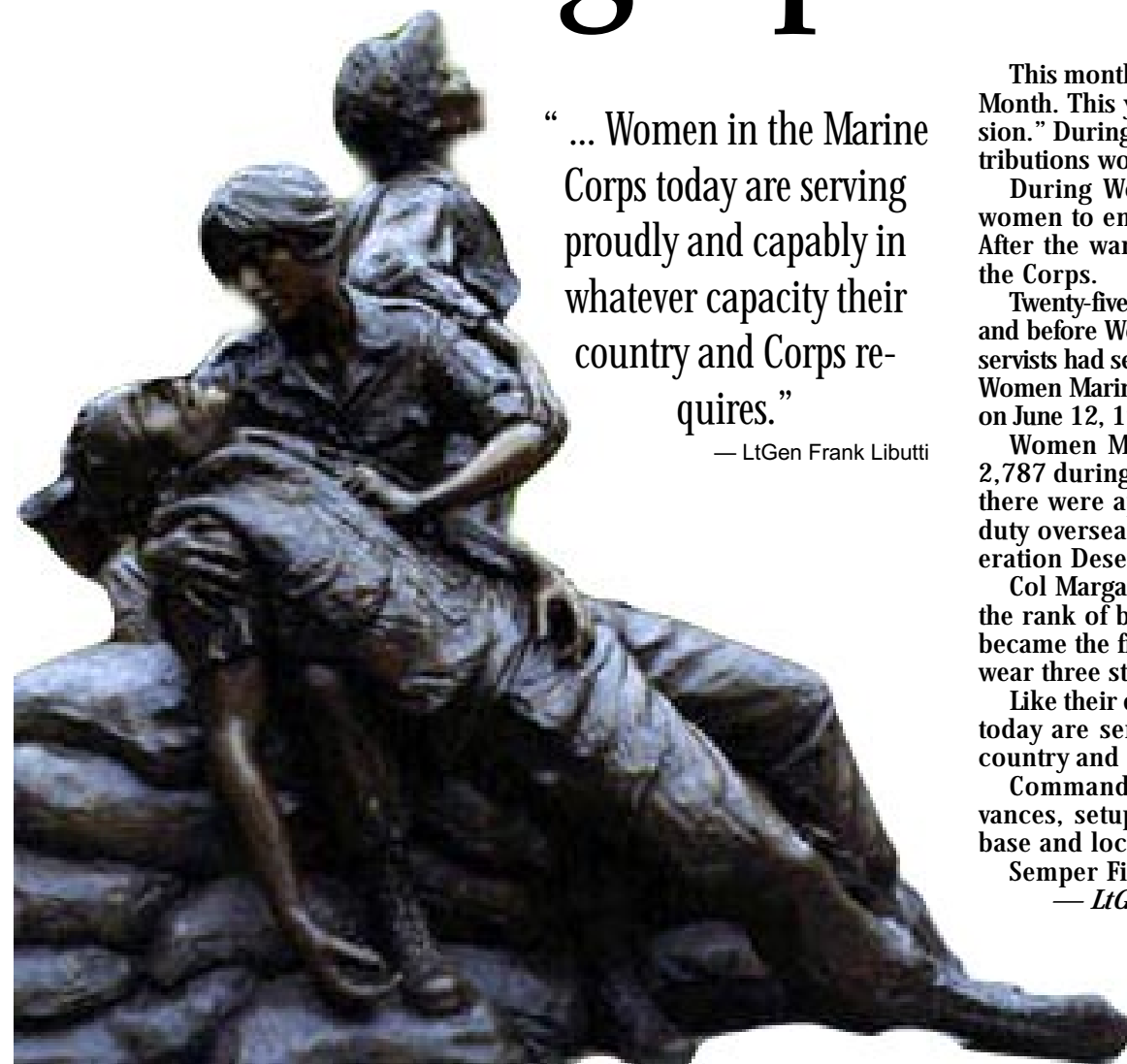
All classes are held in the Kadena Education Center during a one week format. Degree completion is possible in 18-24 months.

Call 634-1606 for tuition rates and degree requirements, or stop by the OU office in Bldg. 721A, room 101B. You can also visit our website at www.goou.ou.edu.

To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to editor@mcbutler.usmc.mil or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

Honoring a proud tradition



“... Women in the Marine Corps today are serving proudly and capably in whatever capacity their country and Corps requires.”

— LtGen Frank Libutti

This month marks the 14th annual observance of Women’s History Month. This year’s theme is “Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision.” During this month, we can all celebrate and recognize the contributions women have made to the Marine Corps and the nation.

During World War I, Opha Mae Johnson was the first of 305 women to enlist in the Marine Corps Reserve on August 12, 1918. After the war, orders were issued for all women to separate from the Corps.

Twenty-five years later, the Women’s Reserve was established in 1943 and before World War II ended, 23,145 officer and enlisted women reservists had served our Corps in over 200 different military assignments. Women Marines became a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps on June 12, 1948, after already proving themselves in two world wars.

Women Marines on active duty reached their peak strength of 2,787 during the Korean War. By the height of the Vietnam Conflict, there were approximately 2,700 women Marines serving on active duty overseas and stateside. Another 1,000 were deployed to Operation Desert Storm.

Col Margaret Brewer became the first woman to be appointed to the rank of brigadier general in 1978. In 1996, LtGen Carol Mutter became the first woman Marine and the second woman in history to wear three stars.

Like their distinguished predecessors, women in the Marine Corps today are serving proudly and capably in whatever capacity their country and Corps requires.

Commanders are encouraged to conduct appropriate observances, setup informative displays and encourage involvement in base and local community events.

Semper Fidelis.

— LtGen Frank Libutti,

Commanding General, Marine Forces Pacific

What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Dealing with unprofessional conduct

The tension in your shop just hit the boiling point.

You are a recently arrived sergeant into a service support shop on Camp Kinser. The office where you work is beginning to closely resemble an afternoon soap opera.

You have worked in the shop for only a week, but you have identified a major problem.

There were two lance corporals dating in your shop. Well, they broke up. Now every detail of their personal lives is being whispered throughout the office.

The Marines in the shop are taking sides on who wronged whom and who is to blame.

The conversations between the two are as childish as they come and they are constantly bickering.

You have already talked to them about their immature behavior, but they only ramble on about whose fault it is and who starts the arguments.

Even threats of page-11s don’t work.

You want to handle this at your level, but you know that simply giving them an order not to argue won’t work. What do you do?

What the Marines said

Petty Officer 2nd Class with 3d FSSG: “I would try to get one of them into a different work section. This is why people who work together shouldn’t date.”

Sergeant with 3d MarDiv: “These two Marines will come in early and stay after work plus weekends to work on their bearing. By the end of the week I would have them hating me more than they hate each other.”

Sergeant with MCB: “I would start the paperwork in order to get them NJP’d. Once their liberty is secured maybe they’d grow up.”

What the Chaplain said

Professionalism is the hallmark of good military discipline. Few things erode morale more quickly than bickering and gossip. Although we might think that separating the individuals is the best course, this isn’t always possible. Furthermore, it may be too soon for that. A young leader’s teeth are cut on challenges like this.

This bickering has been going on despite counseling. What would good counseling look like? Calling them both in and counseling them in no uncertain terms that their personal relationship and problems are affecting the shop, their own performance, and overall good order and discipline.

Every relationship within the shop is to be on a professional basis. Their personal problems with each other are not to be discussed on duty unless it is an issue that needs to be brought through the chain of command. Then, since this has become a public problem in the workspace, all the Marines should be told in formation about leaving personal relationships and bickering out of the workplace. Now, if all this has failed, it is time for the Page 11 entries.

Personal problems are an inevitable part of the human condition. It is how we respond to them that sets us apart as a people dedicated to our Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

— Navy LT Jerome A. Hinson, 3d FSSG Chaplain



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Commanding General BG Gen Willie J. Williams
Public Affairs Officer LtCol Kurt S. Owerhohle
Press Officer Capt Jeffrey S. Pool
Press Chief GySgt Matthew J. Hevezi
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Editor Cpl Matthew S. Bates
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MISSION: NEO DESTINATION: Tinian

Story and photos by GySgt Matt Hevezi



A KC-130 lands on a remote runway in Tinian March 1. The transport airplane was loaded with infantrymen from Co L, 3/7, 3d MarDiv, who were participating in an airfield seizure and noncombatant evacuation operation training. 144 Marines and Sailors from 3/7 participated in the training March 1-2. The KC-130s that delivered the Marines were from VMGR-152, which sent eight flights to Tinian to support the training.

3/7 Marines conduct noncombatant evacuation operation training in Tinian

TINIAN, Mariana Islands, Micronesia — They came running from the back of the transport airplane like a bunch of angry fire ants. Marine infantrymen scrambled from the KC-130 and quickly dropped into position. Marine FA/18 fighter jets screamed overhead ready to cover the Marines below if things heated up. In less than an hour, the remote airfield on the northern end of the small island was secure and the heart of the mission could begin.

Civilian workers from Canada and America needed help fast. Enemy special forces were threatening their lives and the Marines were called to help get the civilians out. If the enemy wanted to show up, the Marines were ready to take them out too.

It was only practice here March 1 for the infantrymen from Company L, 3d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, who recently arrived in Okinawa from their home base in Twentynine Palms, Calif., for six months of intensive training under the Unit Deployment Program. But it is exactly the kind of short-notice mission Marines must regularly train for to be ready to do it anywhere around the world.

The mission is referred to as a noncombatant evacuation or NEO. After the initial forces seized the airfield and determined no enemy were in the area, 22 Marines from Headquarters Company, 3/7, quickly set up an evacuation control center or ECC.

"We bring all the mission essential gear with us (for the ECC)," said GySgt Kevin G. Clark, Company Gunnery Sergeant, HQ Co., 3/7. "We have to bring forms, tags, medical supplies and other administrative gear."

As the evacuees began arriving at the ECC, Sgt Ben Upton, and the other ECC Marines began their work. Sgt Upton is an Administrative Noncommissioned Officer assigned to HQ Co., 3/7. At the ECC, he was in charge of screening evacuees.

"We have to make sure they have no weapons or contraband," Sgt Upton said. "It's mainly for our safety." The Marines must take away anything that can be used as a weapon. Two pistols, four K-bars, nine knives and a screwdriver were confiscated and tagged by the search teams.

There are five stations that evacuees are processed through at the ECC: briefing, search, screening, medical and staging.

Sgt Upton said one of the most important aspects of running the ECC is how the Marines treat the evacuees.

"The Marines handling the evacuees are instructed to ask them if they need anything, like water, and to calm them down if they are upset," Sgt Upton said. "They just have to remember to be nice."

"They treated us a lot better than you'd expect," said SSgt Eugene E. Sanchez, of Headquarters Company, 4th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, who served as the Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the evacuees. "They even helped us with our bags. We had one agitator in my group. They pulled him aside and basically (put him in isolation)."

The NEO is designed to test Marines' ability to move the evacuees, control them and make sure that insurgents get mixed into those being evacuated, said Capt Paul E. Pinaud, an Aviation Safety Officer with the Marine Aircraft Wing who helps evaluate safety issues related to conducting the NEO. "We are operating in an environment that we are not used to and operating totally self-sufficient," Capt Pinaud said.

"We want to get them through as fast as possible, but not let anyone through who isn't supposed to be here," Upton said. We check to make sure they have proper ID. We fill out data sheets and check to make sure they don't have any medical problems.

"We learned it is not as easy as it seems," Sgt Upton said. "There is a large amount of gear to be inventoried."

GySgt Clark said it took the 1st Marine four hours to process the evacuees — the evacuees were all real players from Okinawa-based Headquarters Company, 4th Marine Regiment — and have them ready to get on a plane to safety.

The NEO was conducted under a permissive environment, which means no enemy contact was made during the evacuation. There were 138 Marines and six Navy corpsmen from 3/7 who conducted the NEO. The exercise was just one part of Marine Air Group-3's Operational Readiness Evaluation, which required the MAG's battle staff to range air support for a short-notice NEO mission away from Okinawa.



He may not look it, but part of his mission is being a nice guy. Sgt Ben Upton, Administrative NCO, HQ Co., 3/7, was one of the Marines who greeted evacuees at the screening station at the evacuation control center. He said being nice to the evacuees is one of the most important parts of the NEO training.



Noncombatant evacuation operation or NEO training. The aircraft is a C-130 Hercules.

Marines, Sailors pretend to be civilians stranded on foreign soil of Tinian

GYSGT MATT HEVEZI
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN, Mariana Islands, Micronesia — It's not often you'll see Marines and Sailors deploy wearing blue jeans, tennis shoes and T-shirts. But that's exactly what a group from Camp Schwab did when they left Okinawa for the remote island here.

No, the Corps isn't planning an amphibious invasion on the tourism industry. The 30 Marines and Sailors left their combat boots and camouflage uniforms at home because they were pretending to be civilians caught in a foreign land and in need of a ride to safety.

"We are evacuees," said Cpl Ben L. Vera, Training Noncommissioned Officer, Headquarters Company, 4th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, of his participation in the two-day exercise on Tinian March 1-2. Cpl Vera and the others spent the night on Tinian before being rescued during a noncombatant evacuation operation the following morning.

"We're going to get a little vacation," Cpl Vera said. "It's a good chance for all the Marines who haven't got off of Okinawa to go somewhere and get in a little training too."



GYSGT MATT HEVEZI

Waiting for a ride to safety, 30 Camp Schwab Marines and Sailors, including PO2 Andrew B. Hill, a Corpsman with 4th Marine Regimental Aid Station, kill time at a remote airfield on Tinian March 1. The men left their uniforms behind when they deployed to Tinian as civilian role-players during a noncombatant evacuation operation drill.

"These Marines don't get the chance to get off Okinawa much," said Capt Tim Hitzelberger, a Training Officer assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, who served as Officer in Charge of the evacuees.

He said the group included Marines and Sailors who work in jobs like motor transport, religious programs, communications, medical, and administrative.

"It takes a little getting used to," said SSgt Eugene Sanchez, Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of evacuees, of mixing civilian clothing on a military training mission. "But it is good to get

away from Okinawa. We came to a primitive airstrip, but that's what we'd face if it was for real," he said as the group set up their tents for the night.

Aside from supporting the exercise as civilians, the Marines and Sailors took time to check out some of the historical sights on Tinian. They visited the beaches where Marines landed during WW II.

"I didn't realize there was so much history to this island," said PO2 Andrew B. Hill, Corpsman, Regimental Aid Station, 4th Marine Regiment. "We've had a lot of down time to do some exploring. It is a good history lesson."

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LCpl Marcus Gayton, GySgt Kevin G. Clark and Sgt Ben Upton arrive at a remote runway on Tinian to set up an evacuation control center as part of NEO training. The Marines are assigned to HQ Co. 3/7, 3d MarDiv, and were among 144 Marines and Sailors from 3/7 who participated in the training.



Security searches must take place before evacuees are flown to safety. LCpl Roger Princerivera, Rifleman, Co L, 3/7, keeps his rifle ready as PFC Edward Schmidt, Rifleman, Co L, 3/7, searches for weapons inside the belongings of role-playing evacuee LCpl Donnell Dunson, Radio Operator, H&S Co, 4th Marine Regiment.



Evacuees wait to board their ride to safety. In four hours, the Marines and Sailors from 3/7 secured the airfield, set up the evacuation control center, located the 30 evacuees and prepared them for a ride to safety.

VMGR's flying "Sumos"

KC-130s carry the load when Marines are called into action

GYSGT MATT HEVEZI
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — They can have an airplane fired up and ready for a mission in two hours.

When the battle staff at Marine Air Group-36 needed to quickly get 200 Marines to Tinian as part of the MAG's recent Operational Readiness Evaluation, VMGR-152 was their choice. VMGR is the unit designation for Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron.

The VMGR Marines fly KC-130 Hercules airplanes, a proven workhorse for the Corps. There are 13 KC-130 airplanes in the squadron which goes by the nickname the "Sumos." It can transport combat-equipped Marines, vehicles, supplies or fuel into battle zones. The planes can also provide air-to-air refueling.

Perhaps the KC-130's most valuable capability, though, is its ability to land on short runways that are in less than ideal condition.

That's exactly the type of challenge the VMGR crews faced on the Tinian mission. "The runway there is relatively short," said Maj James C. King, Executive Officer, VMGR-152, MAG-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Once the VMGR Marines receive a request to support a mission like the one to Tinian, they must immediately put a plan together before they can be in the air.

Air Force survey units or other intelligence sources provide information on runway conditions where the Marines will land. Once runway conditions are known, pilots can begin to calculate time, fuel, distance and weight requirements.

"The plan for weight and fuel is a key consideration," said Capt Chris Rhodes, KC-130 Pilot, VMGR-152.

The Marines must determine how much the aircraft will weigh on arrival and how heavy the air-



When the MAG-36 battle staff received a tasking during their recent Operational Readiness Evaluation to transport 200 Marines to Tinian for a noncombatant evacuation operation March 1-2, they called upon the KC-130s of VMGR-152.

plane can be for the runway's length.

Pilots calculate what is referred to as TOLD, or take off and landing data. "TOLD will tell you what the critical field length is," said Capt Mike J. Carreiro, KC-130 Pilot, VMGR-152.

The pilots must also be prepared to handle the runway.

"Getting the airplanes is easy," Maj King said. "But the pilots must have had unimproved landing training," before they can take on missions like the one to Tinian, Maj King said.

The four runways at Tinian are more than 50 years old and have not been maintained through the years. They are overgrown with weeds in many spots and are in rough shape. When planes land in such conditions, pilots must be accurate.

"In order to safely land, you have to touch down in what's called 'the box,'" said Capt Carreiro. The box is a 400-foot area target for the pilots.

"If you cannot put the wheels down in that box, then you have to go around for another attempt, as in a missed approach," Capt Carreiro said. The

descent and speed are key to hitting the box.

Maj King said his unit is not being graded as part of MAG-36's ORE. The ORE is more of a test for the MAG's planning officers and battle staff to see how they can respond to a variety of rapidly changing realistic scenarios.

The ORE requires them to make decisions and respond with appropriate mission tasks to air and support units within MAG-36. VMGR's mission to Tinian was just one of several scenarios which required units to support.

But Maj King said participating in tests like the ORE provides valuable training for his pilots and crews who are tasked to support the ORE's mission scenarios.

Getting a mission like the one to Tinian is better than the average flight assignment received by VMGR-152 Marines because, "it's simulated real-world warfighting that involves a lot more people," Maj King said.

The VMGR Marines flew eight missions to Tinian during the ORE.

Marine Sergeant works his tools of trade on the ground, in the air

GYSGT MATT HEVEZI
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN, Mariana Islands, Micronesia — There is one less guy at the local hangout in Sgt Dale B. Bradley's hometown of Virginia Beach, Va. That's because he joined the Marine Corps and is busy flying to places like Aruba, Guam, Greece and Hawaii.

Sgt Bradley serves as a flight mechanic on Marine Corps KC-130 transport airplanes. He's also been to Portugal, Spain, Italy, Iwakuni and Wake Island. He recently spent the night on a remote runway here when his unit helped transport Marine infantrymen during an exercise.

"Aruba was my favorite, though," Sgt Bradley said, smiling as he recalled his week-long stay in Aruba while on a mission transporting reserve Marines for annual training. "We were down for spring break last year. There were college girls everywhere. Aruba is a place where people pay \$3,000 to get down there and here I was getting paid to be there."

But Sgt Bradley's duties aboard the KC-130's are not all about fun at exotic locations like Aruba. For a 21-year-old, his job carries a lot of responsibility. He is in charge of checking the airplane from top to bottom before each flight. His preflight routine usually takes an hour. But should he miss something, it could mean a broken down airplane at a remote location or worse.

"When you go on the road and something breaks, you have to fix it," Sgt Bradley said. "At Pope Air Force Base, we had an engine go out. We had to use a forklift to pull the engine. It took three or four days to figure out how to do it and get it done."

Sgt Bradley learned how to get it done at flight mechanic school, which he attended in November 1998. The course is located in Pensacola, Fla., and is six months long. He has also attended water survival training at Pensacola and the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape course at Brunswick, Maine. The course is required of most mili-

tary aircrew and pilots who could find themselves in a survival situation in enemy territory.

Most flights, Sgt Bradley said, last from two to 16 hours. During flights he must keep a constant watch to ensure the many hydraulic systems used in the KC-130 are maintaining the proper pressure. When not in the air, he is usually busy in the hangar.

"When we are back at home base we do all the maintenance," he said. It is not unusual for the mechanics to work 10- to 12-hour days.

As a flight mechanic, Sgt Bradley said he earns an additional \$190 in monthly flight pay.

He has been stationed in Okinawa for five months and previously served at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C. His father served in the Corps for 23 years. Bradley joined the Marine Corps in May 1998 and currently serves at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron-152, Marine Air Group-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.



Sgt Dale Bradley serves as a flight mechanic on Marine Corps KC-130 transport airplanes.

Corpsmen volunteer to save Marines in jungle

LCPL KEITH R. MEIKLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER — "Corpsman up!" echoed throughout the jungles of the Republic of Vietnam, as hundreds of Marines lay wounded on the battlefield in need of serious medical attention.

The cry for help was heard loud and clear, and the hospital corpsmen were there.

One such corpsman, in particular, was Navy PO2 Donald E. Ballard of Company M, 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division.

PO2 Ballard was one of many hospital corpsman who helped treat and evacuate wounded Marines from the battlefield of Vietnam's Quang Tri Province. While treating wounded Marines, he fearlessly thrust himself upon a grenade that was tossed in his direction.

Upon realizing that the grenade had failed to detonate, PO2 Ballard calmly arose from the dangerous position and continued to help evacuate Marines to safety. He was later awarded a Medal of Honor for his courageous actions.

His actions, and the actions of all other corpsmen who proudly served their country during its darkest moments, have not been forgotten. They are in the writings on the walls. They cover the pages in the history books. More importantly, however, they are embedded in the hearts of today's corpsmen who train continuously to ensure they, too, are ready to answer the call to duty.

Recently, more than 60 corpsmen and religious personnel of III Marine Expeditionary Force, 3d Marine Division, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, U.S. Naval Hospital, and various U.S. Air Force commands joined forces in a mass casualty drill and trauma skills teaching class here at the Jungle Com-

bat Trauma Course.

"Our goal is to make these corpsmen ready for combat and give them confidence and competence to save lives without panicking at a small unit level," said PO2 Estevan Pacheco, Course Coordinator, JCTC.

The course focused on making the injuries as real as possible to enhance the training objectives.

Thanks to Marines of 2d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment, who volunteered to help the corpsmen by acting as mock patients, the realization of treating and evacuating wounded service members was brought to life during the mass casualty drill.

According to CPO Jack Bosma, Course Administrator, Jungle Combat Trauma Course, the mass casualty drill prepares the corpsmen to see realistic wounds, recognize symptoms, assess injuries, as well as showing them how to save the most lives in the timeliest manner.

"We try to desensitize the corpsmen by making the wounds as real as possible," said Air Force SSgt Michelle K. Blackwell, Medical Service Craftsman, 18th Medical Group, Kadena Air Base. "If (the victims) were shot in the neck they would have blood on their hands from grabbing the wound, so we make the mock situations look real."

The reality of the training helps the corpsmen to recognize and maximize their training experience.

"The mass casualty was very realistic for us," said Airman Nattasha Cameron, Corpsman, 18th Medical Group, Kadena Air Base. "The scenarios of how the victims were set up and we had to find and assess their wounds. It made it that much more of a learning experience."

The lifelike situations aren't the only reason the course is flourishing.

"I did this to get more hands-on training and see what the Navy corpsmen do,"



LCPL KEITH R. MEIKLE

LCpl Donald Watson, SAW Gunner, Company E, 2d Bn, 3d Marines, ensures his injuries are just right for playing a wounded victim, during the mass casualty drill portion of the Jungle Combat Trauma Course, held recently at the Jungle Warfare Training Center.

Airman Cameron said. "Any extra experience I can get is a benefit."

With experience and hands on training, the course continues to grow and change.

"The course is always changing," CPO

Bosma said. "It started out just Navy and now has expanded to Air Force, Army and even some Marines."

The growth of the course to inter-service training has been a success, and can provide benefits in the future.

12th Marines use "Marine Power"

Improvements made to training areas

CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP GONSAIVES - A group of Headquarters Battery, 12th Marine Regiment, Marines recently got down and dirty to complete improvements to training areas here.

The Marines built four improved defensive perimeter objectives, including a simulated rocket-launching site. The new objectives improve the realistic qualities of training. In combat, the Marines could be tasked with building similar protective positions for their howitzers or other combat-essential equipment.

"We volunteered to do the construction work out here because it is similar to the work we would do in the field supporting the firing batteries," said GySgt Herb E. Roberts, Logistics Chief.

The Marines from nearly every section within the Headquarters Battery spent the four days covered in red clay as they constructed berms and built small, protective shelters. The Marines also took a stripped vehicle, similar to a semi-truck, and set it up with empty barrels connected to look like an enemy rocket launcher. The truck was rolled into a large ditch dug

by the Marines.

"This objective gave the Marines an idea of how to set up a defensive perimeter should they have to dig in and partially bury a piece of hot equipment," GySgt Roberts said. "This is the work they would have to do in the field."

Digging the ditch to house the truck and its simulated rocket proved to be too much for 12th Marines' 'trencher,' a piece of equipment used for digging.

"The clay was too tough for the trencher," GySgt Roberts said. "So it came down to 'Marine power.'"

Sgt Michael P. Keith was one of three site supervisors to oversee the 'Marine power.'

Safety and weather concerns occupied Sgt Keith's mind while red clay and rain dripped from his hands. Digging in pouring rain was "one big challenge," Sgt Keith said.

This is the first time in GySgt Roberts' three years on Okinawa that Headquarters Battery has had the opportunity to train in a setting very close to what they may see in combat.

Diversity in training is important, according to GySgt Roberts.

It's a lot easier to take the firing batteries to Fuji and give them rounds to send down range than it is to find a stripped semi-truck, bury it, and create a reinforced perimeter objective, according to GySgt Roberts.



CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

Pvt Michael Nichols, Repair Specialist, HQ Co, 12th Marines, digs in the red-clay trench constructed by himself and fellow Marines from the battery.

Volunteers help keep local beaches clean

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CHATAN TOWN — Sailors and their family members from the 3d Dental Battalion, U.S. Naval Dental Center, Okinawa, recently volunteered to help clean up Arah and Sunset Beach.

Approximately 30 volunteers spent their morning picking up bottles, cigarette butts and other trash that had accumulated on the beaches.



SCPO Roxas

"We wanted to show the local community that we have something positive to give back," said Navy SCPO Emelito P. Roxas, Dental Technician, 3d Dental Bn, USNDC, who organized the event.

For some volunteers, this effort gave them a sense of pride.

"We get to clean up the beaches and show that we are here to help the community," said Seaman Marc

M. Vidale, Dental Technician, 3d Dental Bn, USNDC.

After the cleaning crew sifted through the beach for trash, they moved on to Sunset Beach.

Donning latex gloves and armed with trash bags, the volunteers wasted little time as they split into two groups and continued their mission of cleaning up the beaches. The beaches didn't need a lot of work, but the rocky areas needed extra attention, according to SCPO Roxas, who first got the idea to clean the beaches after running on them with his daughters.

"I called so I could get permission from the mayor," SCPO Roxas said. "I also thought it was a good idea for the younger service members to have something positive to do on the weekends."

Although cleanup efforts had been done before, this was the first time the 3d Dental Bn. did it as a whole, according to SCPO Roxas. Not only will the local community benefit, but also Sailors and family members.

"It's a great thing for families to do together," SCPO Roxas said. "They get to enjoy a morning on the beach as well as learn about cleaning up the environment."

"Cleanups give us a chance to come out and support the beaches that we all use," said SCPO Lee True, Dental Technician, 3d Dental Bn, USNDC.

Volunteers put their efforts into the job and expected nothing in return, but received more than enough reason to continue clean up efforts.

"An Okinawan came up to me as I was picking up trash and expressed his appreciation," SCPO True said. "It's real gratifying when they show us they appreciate our efforts."

SCPO Roxas plans to hold beach cleanups twice a month. One clean up will be for CPOs and the other will be for the battalion.



Capt Steve M. Wolff, Clinic Director, Kinser Dental Clinic and his 6-year-old son, Sam, help clean up beaches on Okinawa.

Marines lend hand to recycling project at Friendship Parent's Association

PFC DAMIAN MCGEE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

ISHIKAWA — A group of 20 Camp Courtney Marines assisted residents at Teo Tsunagu Oya-no-kai (Friendship Parent's Association) home for the mentally challenged with a recycling project during a recent visit. The Marines helped the Japanese adults take old papers and books and rip the pages into smaller pieces so they can be recycled.

The trip was the fourth time religious leaders at Camp Courtney's Chapel took Marines to the home to interact with the residents. The Marines were from Headquarters Battalion, 3d Marine Division.

"They're so happy that the Americans are taking their time to visit them," said Ichiro Umehara, Community Relations Specialist, Camp Courtney. "Sometimes

they're rejected by their own people, so it's nice to see the Americans take the time to come out and sit with them."

Although very few of the Marines spoke Japanese, there was an ample amount of interaction.

"It's a little different because of the language barrier," said LCpl Victor Jones, Multi-Unit Transmitter Operator, Communications Company, HQ Bn, 3d Marine Division. "Even though we can't speak their language and they can't speak ours you can still interact with people through smiles and gestures."

The interaction was clearly abundant because the smiles of both the Japanese and Marines filled the room during the entire visit. For both groups it was a new experience.

"This gives us a chance to interact with different people," LCpl Jones said.

"It also opens our eyes to something new. It's like a window into what really goes on in life that we might normally forget about."

It was the insight gained by looking through this 'window' that Maj Tom Dewyea, Communications Company

Commander, was hoping his Marines would learn the most from.

"Through this visit I hope they have a better appreciation for what they have in life," Maj Dewyea said. "It may seem like something insignificant to others, but it means something to these people."

The Marines all volunteered for the visit, including the officers.

"We always say lead by example," Maj Dewyea said. "So the officers came out to help with this project also."

Through this and previous visits, the Marines who participated noticed the

Japanese worked with outdated equipment and felt there should be something better for them to use.

"If you look throughout the room there are old tables and chairs," said Navy LCDR Jairo Moreno, Coordinating Chaplain, Camp Courtney Chapel. "They work hard and deserve better, which is why we're holding our bike race."

LCDR Moreno, along with the volunteer Marines and members of the Camp Courtney Chapel will be sponsoring an open bike race Saturday, March 17 to raise money to purchase new equipment for the home.

"It's all free of charge, but we will be accepting donations to help these people out," LCDR Moreno said.

For more information about volunteer opportunities or the St. Patrick's Day Bike race call 622-9272 or 622-9221.

Dragons burned by Red Devils 45-41

Kubasaki girls fall short in DoDDS Far East High School Class AA Basketball Tournament

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LCPL KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — The Kinnick High School Red Devils defeated the Kubasaki Dragons 45-41 in the finals of the Department of Defense Dependent Schools Far East High School Girls Class AA Basketball Tournament at Kubasaki High School Feb 24.

Senior Guards Leina Powers and tournament MVP Arianne Bordeaux kept fans on the edge of their seats as they lead the Red Devils in scoring with a combined total of 29 points.

"It's a great feeling to be in Okinawa and to win this tournament," said Henry Falk, Head Coach, Kinnick High School Girl's Basketball Team, from Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan. "The way our team communicated throughout the game and never gave up helped bring us the victory."

This tournament win gives the Red Devils their third Far East Tournament title in 10 years.

"Teamwork was the reason we were in the final game to start with," Powers said. "We had to work hard and pull together as a team one more time to come away with this victory."

The Red Devils came out fighting in the early minutes of the game by jumping out to a 12-2 lead. They provided full court pressure that made it difficult for Kubasaki to move the ball down the court. By the end of the first quarter the Red



Nikki McGraw, Kubasaki guard, prepares to shoot a free throw after being fouled.

Devils were on top 26-6.

Bordeaux started the second quarter by scoring the first six points for the Red Devils. Kubasaki continued to struggle getting the ball up the court and had two turnovers in the first minute of the second quarter.

By calling a time-out with 2:10 left in the half, Kubasaki attempted to slow the pace of the game down to keep the game from slipping away. Kubasaki forward Shakyra Walker hit a last-second layup to end the half, which left the Red Devils on top 32-19.

"I knew that we were hurting for points, so at halftime I regained focus and applied what the coach told us," Walker said.

The Dragons did show signs of life in the third quarter by pulling within 5 points of the Red Devils with 5:15 left. Walker stepped up for the Dragons by hitting some big shots, which turned the momentum of the game.

But the Red Devils quickly regained control when Powers hit a last second three-pointer to end the third quarter. The Red Devils were on top 41-31 with only one quarter of play left.

With the crowd cheering, the Dragons charged the court with vengeance and landed the first two buckets of the last quarter. Kubasaki forward Kathryn Chop then landed a jump shot to pull the Dragons within four. This forced Kinnick to call a time-out with 5:43 left to play.

After a scoreless three minutes, Kinnick guard Seneka Arrington hit two free throws with 1:59 left in the game that gave the Red Devils a 43-37 lead. It was after these free throws that Walker pulled the Dragons within two points by hitting back-to-back jump shots.

After their final time-out and 25 seconds left to play, the Dragons had one last shot to tie or win the game, but mistakenly turned the ball over out-of-bounds, which gave the Red Devils possession. The Red Devils then held the ball until the final second clicked off the clock and claimed the victory.

"Our competition played tough and gave us a scare in the final moments," Falk said. "I felt our team had enough desire to come out of here victorious."

He said it felt great to see hard work pay off and to finish the season as champions.



(above) Nikki McGraw, Kubasaki guard, goes up for a layup against Kinnick defenders during the Girls Far East Basketball Tournament Feb. 24 at Kubasaki High School.



(left) Anna Chambers, Kubasaki guard, battles with Arianne Bordeaux, Kinnick forward, for the rebound during the Girls Far East Basketball Tournament Feb. 24 at Kubasaki High School.

Eisa Dancers perform traditional song and dance at an amphitheater throughout the day at Ryukyu Mura.

Ryukyu Mura

brings a glimpse of the past to modern life



A water buffalo is used to power an old fashioned Okinawan sugar mill by turning a giant wheel as workers feed sugar cane through a grinder at Ryukyu Mura.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

ONNA VILLAGE — Animals run free through the village as merchants make crafts, create pottery and manufacture black sugar with the help of a water buffalo. No, you haven't traveled back in time but you might as well have.

Ryukyu Mura is a replica of an ancient Okinawan village, which depicts the ancient culture and way of life of people living in the Ryukyu kingdom hundreds of years ago.

The first stop in the park is the Nakasone House. Here artisans create Ori-Mono (textiles) by weaving on traditional looms. During the Ryukyu Kingdom period only the royal family could use the textiles, according to the Ryukyu Mura brochure.

As visitors wander through the park they will find themselves drawn to the smell of the 110-year-old Tamanaha House. Fist-sized Okinawan doughnuts are made from scratch and served to you fresh for ¥100.

Venturing further into the park one will come across the 140-year-old Shimbukuro House, which was brought in from Nago. Once a home of a wealthy farmer, visitors can now exchange cash for Ryukyu koban (ancient gold coin), which can only be spent inside the village.

Across from the Shimbukuro House is the Higa House, which is between 200 and 300 years old. This house produces herbs used in medicine, and visitors are invited to try the park's original tea made from 38 herbs. Herbs and natural medicine are attributed to the lon-

gevity of Okinawans, who have the highest life expectancy in Japan, according to a park brochure.

Halfway through the park, visitors can venture up a hill to the Habu Center and enter for ¥420. Audiences are shown and educated about habu snakes, which are on display along with mongooses. The center develops habu medicine including habu powder, which gives its consumer energy, according to Toshiyuki Nakada, Guide, Ryukyu Mura Village.

The next site to see is the pottery house. Okinawan artists design clay sculptures, glasses, bowls, plates and much more. All pottery is for sale and can range from ¥500 to several thousand yen.

Upon exiting the pottery house, visitors come across an old-fashioned sugar factory that uses the power of water buffalos. Before WWII, these type of mills were common in villages through out the Ryukyu Islands, but today there are only a few remaining.

At the conclusion of the tour, a small amphitheater plays host to traditional dancing and music performed throughout the day. Visitors are also given an opportunity to shop in the large gift shop which sells various crafts from the village as well as many other goods.

Tickets to the village cost ¥420 for children and ¥840 for adults. Groups of 20 or more receive a 10 percent discount. The village is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information about the village call (098) 965-1234 or check out the village's web site at www.ryukyumura.co.jp.



Habu snakes are on display for visitors to get an up close look at the Habu Center located in Ryukyu Mura.



In the Ryukyu Mura Park, Aiko Yonezaki sells hand-made crafts.



AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

1987 Isuzu Bighorn — JCI Feb 03, \$3,000. 636-4464.
 1987 Toyota Camry — JCI Sep 02, \$550. 622-5357 or 622-9498.
 1990 Honda Bros 400cc — JCI Feb 02, \$1,700 OBO. 633-1016.
 1990 Honda Civic — JCI Sep 01, \$1,800 OBO. 637-2482.
 1990 Mazda Miata — JCI May 01, \$3,000. 1987 Nissan Largo — JCI Jun 01, \$2,000. 633-6239.
 1989 Toyota Supra — JCI Feb 03, \$2,800 OBO. 090-1942-2715.
 1990 Honda Integra — JCI Dec 02, \$1,800 OBO. 926-1666.
 1990 Honda Integra — JCI Nov 01, \$1,900 OBO. 636-5152.
 1981 Mercedes Benz — JCI Apr 02, \$1,150. 090-7985-5880.
 1990 Toyota Cresta — JCI Jan 01, \$1,500 OBO. 090-9407-2921.
 1987 Nissan Blue Bird — JCI Jul 02, \$1,250 OBO. 1988 Toyota Corolla — \$1,500 OBO. Bobby, 646-6286 or 090-3795-9514.
 1988 HD 1200 — \$9,000. Phil, 646-8524.
 1989 Toyota MR2 — JCI Jul 01, \$1,500. J-Dee, 622-6314.
 1987 Toyota Master Ace — JCI Feb 03, \$2,000 OBO. 623-6421.
 1991 Toyota Camry — JCI Jul 02, \$2,300 OBO. Teddy, 636-1155.
 1989 Mazda — JCI Jun 02, \$1,200. 633-9154.
 1987 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Apr 02, \$900 OBO. Jerry, 637-3189.
 1986 Pajero — JCI Jul 01, \$4,000 OBO. 622-5141.
 1992 Nissan Presea — JCI Oct 02, \$1,800 OBO. Eliseo, 622-8201.
 1989 Honda Accord — JCI Nov 02, \$2,000 OBO. 1990 Toyota Levin — JCI Apr 01, \$900 OBO. 090-1948-9262.
 1987 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Feb 03, \$2,000. 939-6491.
 1988 Nissan Largo — JCI May 01, Free need work. 622-8589.
 1994 Nissan Pulsar — JCI Feb 03, \$2,500. 646-6267.
 1988 Honda Prelude — JCI Dec 01, \$1,600 OBO. 090-1087-4611.

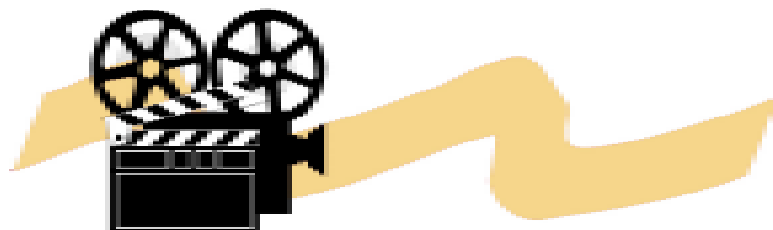


MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. — 17" Chrome rims and tires, \$1,900; (2) 12" subs boxed, \$300; 1000 watt amp, \$250; JVC crossover, \$85; Kenwood equalizer/crossover, \$115; white/chrome steering wheel, \$50; wood/chrome steering wheel, \$35. 637-4097 or 090-9785-5108.
 Misc. — Queen Bed Serta Perfect Sleeper w/box spring and frame, \$395; rosewood endtable, \$190; large outdoor shed, \$300; dehumidifier, \$75; old dresser, \$30. 622-5178.
 Misc. — Refrigerator, \$350; computer desk, \$25; King-sized mattress, box springs and bedframe, \$100; reclining sofa, \$50; 2000w transformer, \$75; 1000w transformer, \$50; nightstand, \$10; dresser, \$20; Playstation w/13 games, \$120. 098-982-0015.
 Misc. — (2) Kenwood 6X9 speakers, \$20; Kenwood cassette deck, \$25; Playstation w/2 controllers, \$50. 646-6975.
 Rug — 12X15 beige area rug, \$100. Will deliver. 622-5314.
 Misc. — Atlanta Falcons Lettermans jacket, size 40, \$200; leather jacket, size 40, \$200; "Pearl" drummers jacket, size 38, \$100; black casual suit, size 40, 30X32 trousers, \$200. 633-6239.
 Misc. — Pioneer car stereo, \$100; IBM Scanner, \$70 OBO; IBM laser printer, \$100 OBO. Ben, 926-1666
 Misc. — infant car seat, \$25; changing table, \$20; vibrating bouncing seat, \$30; cradle, \$75; double jogger stroller, \$150; sit and stand stroller, \$25; over the sink infant bath, \$5. 637-3853.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Coming to a theater near you ...



Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. **Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes.** Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Courtney (622-9616)

Fri The Mexican (R); 7:00
 Sat Valentine (R); 7:00
 Sun Family Man (PG13); 7:00
 Mon Closed
 Tue Closed
 Wed Red Planet (R); 7:00
 Thu Closed

Butler (645-3465)

Fri 3,000 Miles to Graceland (R); 7:00, 10:00
 Sat Emporor's New Groove (G); 1:00, 4:00
 Sat 3,000 Miles to Graceland (R); 7:00, 10:00
 Sun Emporor's New Groove (G); 1:00, 4:00



Check Courtney, Kinser, Futenma, Butler and Schwab Theaters for show times.

Sun 3,000 Miles to Graceland (R); 7:00
 Mon Men of Honor (R); 7:00
 Tue Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:00
 Wed Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:00
 Thu The Mexican (R); 7:00

Kinser (637-2177)

Fri Dude, Where's My Car (PG13); 7:00
 Sat Emperor's New Groove (G); 3:00
 Sat Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:00, 11:30
 Sun Men of Honor (R); 7:00
 Mon Closed
 Tue Emperor's New Groove (G); 7:00
 Wed The Mexican (R); 7:00
 Thu Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:00



Check Keystone, Kinser, and Butler Theaters for show times.

Keystone (634-1869)

Fri Dude, Where's My Car (PG13); 6:30
 Fri Valentine (R); 9:30
 Sat Valentine (R); 5:30
 Sat The Mexican (R); 9:00
 Sun Emperor's New Groove (G); 2:00
 Sun The Mexican (R); 5:30, 9:00
 Mon Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:00
 Tue Bounce (PG13); 7:00
 Wed Closed
 Thu Closed

Hansen (623-4564)

Fri Hannibal (R); 6:00, 9:00
 Sat Hannibal (R); 6:00, 9:00
 Sun Miss Congeniality (PG13); 2:00, 5:30
 Mon The Sixth Day (PG13); 7:00
 Tue Little Nicky (PG13); 7:00
 Wed Bounce (PG13); 7:00
 Thu Bounce (PG13); 7:00

Schwab (625-2333)

Fri Red Planet (PG13); 7:00
 Sat Dude, Where's My Car (PG13); 6:00
 Sat Family Man (PG13); 9:00
 Sun Dude, Where's My Car (PG13); 3:00
 Sun Family Man (PG13); 6:00
 Mon The Mexican (R); 7:00
 Tue The Mexican (R); 7:00
 Wed Closed
 Thu Bounce (R); 7:00

Futenma (636-3890)

Fri Almost Famous (R); 7:30
 Sat Dude, Where's My Car (PG13); 6:00
 Sun Family Man (R); 6:00
 Mon Sweet November (PG13); 7:30
 Tue Closed
 Wed 3,000 Miles to Graceland (PG13); 7:30
 Thu Closed



Check Courtney, Kinser, Butler, Keystone, and Schwab Theaters for show times.